

REMARKS

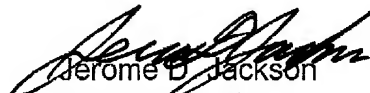
Applicants respectfully request that the forgoing amendment be entered before examination of this application.

Applicants have eliminated reference numbers in the claims, and the redundant terms "at least" because, in U.S. practice, an article ("a", "an") normally encompasses one and or more than one, a counted element normally encompasses either the number counted or more than the number, and a part normally encompasses the part as well as the whole. In other words, where the words "at least" had explicitly appeared in the original claims, the concept of at least was being already implicit, and therefore the words "at least" were redundant.

The required fee for extra claims is being submitted via EFT.

If the Examiner has any questions about this amendment, applicants' representative would appreciate discussing this amendment with the Examiner. Applicant's representative can be reached at 703-684-4840.

Respectfully submitted,


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